

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 19, 2010

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Budget - 7th Special Session

The 7th Special Session adjourned on Tuesday, March 16th with twelve bills and two resolutions passed. On Thursday, the Governor signed the budget bill package. Fact sheets on each of the bills and resolutions, as posted on the Arizona State Legislatures website, are linked below for your reference.

HB 2001: General Appropriations; 2009-2010; 2010-2011

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2001_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2002: Capital Outlay Appropriations; 2010-2011

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2002_03-11-10_houseengrossed.doc.htm

HB 2003: Budget Procedures; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2003_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2004: Regulation; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2004_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2005: General Government; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2005_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2006: Criminal Justice; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2006_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2007: Environment; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2007_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2008: K-12 Education; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2008_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2009: Higher Education; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2009_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2010: Health; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2010_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2011: Welfare; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2011_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HB 2012: Revenues; Budget Reconciliation; 2010-2011
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hb2012_03-15-10_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm

HCR 2001: Early Childhood Development; Health; Repeat **to Ballot**

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hcr2001_03-16-10_astransmittedtosecretaryofstate.doc.htm

HCR2002: Land Conservation Fund; Reversion **to Ballot**

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/7s/summary/h.hcr2002_03-11-10_houseengrossed.doc.htm

To view state agency information regarding the 2010 budget, as passed in the 7th Special Session, go to:

AHCCCS: http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.aspx#FY_2011_State_Budget

DES: <https://www.azdes.gov/main.aspx?menu=12&id=5158>

ADHS Directors Blog: <http://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/?p=197>

This week the following actions were filed on legislation tracked by the Council:

HB 2026: Advisory Council on Aging; Continuation - 3/18 from Senate Health and Medical Liability Reform Committee with *do pass* recommendation

HB 2028: Hard of Hearing Commission; Continuation - 3/18 from Senate Health and Medical Liability Reform Committee with *do pass* recommendation

HB 2242: Reverse Mortgages; Regulations 3/15 referred to Senate Commerce and Economic Development Committee

HB 2425: Vulnerable Adults; Attorney Fees - 3/18 from Senate Public Safety and Human Services with *do pass* recommendation

HB 2426: Adult Guardianship & Protective Proceedings - 3/18 from Senate Public Safety and Human Services with *do pass* recommendation

Hearing scheduled for next on bills being tracked by the Council on Aging:

HB 2469: Certified Medication Assistants; Senate Healthcare and Medical Liability Reform Committee, 3/24/2010; 9:00 am, Senate Rm. 1

Note: You can find the agendas for hearings and check to see if the times have changed or committees have been cancelled at the Arizona State Legislature website link:

Committee Agendas:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=&ShowAll=ON>

At the end of day 68 of the 2010 Arizona Legislative Session: 1,232 bills posted, 155 memorials or resolutions posted, three bills passed/signed and five memorials/resolutions passed.

Both the House and the Senate are adjourned until Monday, March 22, 2010.

Session Deadlines - Today marks the last day for Senate Committees to hear House bill and House Committees to hear Senate bills.

To view the legislation being tracked by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, click on the list below:

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24520&listid=40701&print=true>

Note: This list contains some bills that haven't seen action, and while nothing is dead until the Legislature adjourns sine die, the chances for the bills passage are poor.

The **FULL LIST** website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list ***does not*** represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

If you have a particular perspective to share, you can voice your opinions to:

The **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at **602-542-4331** or toll-free at **800-253-0883**

Or you may contact the Legislator from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature** website <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.4819

Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2010

Introduced on 3/10/2010 by Representative Laura Richardson (CA-37), the bill is intended to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to expand the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

Findings:

(1) The downturn in the national economy has adversely affected millions of workers in all age groups, but it has disproportionately burdened workers age 55 and older.

(2) During the period from 2005 through 2007, more than 900,000 workers age 55 and older lost jobs they had held for the preceding 3 years or longer. Such older workers constitute a quarter of long-tenured workers who lost their jobs during this period.

(3) Older workers experience substantially longer periods of unemployment than younger workers and are more likely to exhaust their unemployment insurance benefits.

(4) Older workers are comparatively less successful than younger workers in finding new jobs. Only 55 percent of workers age 55 and over who had been long-tenured before losing their jobs during the period from 2005 through 2007 were reemployed in January 2008, compared to 72.6 percent of workers ages 25 to 54.

(5) Unemployed older workers who succeed in obtaining new employment are more likely than younger workers to be underemployed, holding part-time jobs that pay lower wages.

Expansion of Senior Community Service Employment Program:

- (1) Reduction of age of eligibility to age 52
- (2) Elimination of requirement that eligible individual be unemployed
- (3) Increase in income limitation for eligible individuals
- (4) Income defined and includes only eligible individual's income in household
- (5) Hours per week grantee may permit participant to work is expanded
- (6) Authorizes appropriations

On 3/10/2010, the bill was referred to House Committee on Education and Labor.

From: Kaiser Family Foundation Updated 3.19.09 **Side-by-Side Comparison of health care reform** proposals. <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>

To be provided next week, a review of **H.R.2847: Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act.**

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the **Thomas website** <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number or description under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

From: Internal Revenue Service the IRS has announced several extra steps being taken this tax season to help people who are having difficulties meeting their tax obligations because of unemployment or other financial problems.

For more information

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/IRSNewsRelease030910.pdf>

Information & Resources:

The Governor's Office on Aging is pleased to be a Co-Sponsor of Afternoon Sessions at the **2010 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference**

WHEN: Friday, May 21, 2010, 8:00 am 5:00 pm

Due to overwhelming response to last year's conference, registration is encouraged as soon as possible!

Register online at <http://www.azalz.org/> or call 480-440-7177

WHAT: 22nd Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference, Our Elders: Living Treasures

WHEN: April 19-22, 2010, Radisson Ft. McDowell Resort & Casino, 10438 N. Ft. McDowell Road, Fountain Hills, AZ 85264

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2010AICOASavetheDate.pdf>

WHAT: Caring for a Loved One At Home; Family Caregiver Training Classes

Sponsored by Northern Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging Family Caregiver Program & the Town of Prescott Valley

WHEN: May 3, 4, 6th and May 11 & 12, 2010, Prescott Valley Civic Center, 7601 E. Civic Circle, Room 331, Prescott Valley, AZ

For more information and registration, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/Flyer1PrescottValley.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a good week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging